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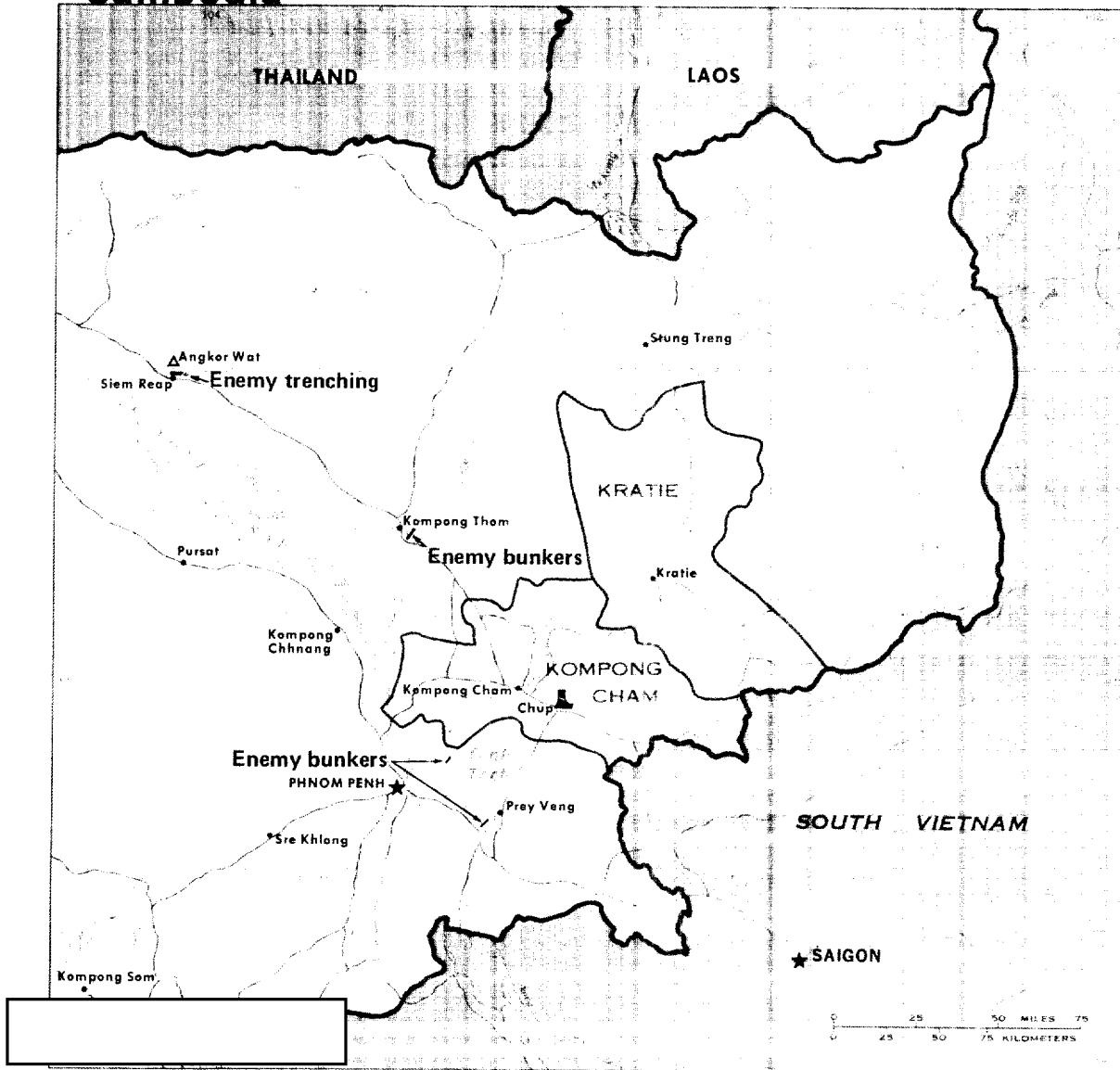
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Cambodia



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CAMBODIA: The military situation is still quiet, as the Communists continue to concentrate on moving foodstuffs and military supplies to their forces.

There is no evidence that main force units are moving into position for any significant upsurge in the fighting in the immediate future. The Communists are continuing to improve their military posture, however. Fresh bunkers and trenches have been constructed within a few miles of Kompong Thom city during the past few days. US aerial observers are continuing to see similar activity in the Tonle Toch region northeast of Phnom Penh and near the cities of Prey Veng and Siem Reap. Damage inflicted by air strikes on these fortifications and storage areas has been quickly repaired and the Communists are increasingly willing to direct ground fire at both observer and tactical aircraft.

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WEST GERMANY - ARAB STATES: Bonn hopes to restore diplomatic relations with most of the Arab states this spring.

The general desire on both sides to resume relations reflects a gradual change in their attitudes over the last seven years. The more radical Arab governments have been reluctant to move as swiftly as the others, but Arab states generally now want to renew the ties with West Germany, which they broke in 1965 when Bonn established diplomatic relations with Israel. Bonn has no intention of diminishing its relations with Israel, and Chancellor Brandt has decided to accept an invitation to pay a state visit to Israel--the first by a German chancellor--later this year. To avoid damaging the promising trend in German-Arab relations, however, he may have to delay announcing his acceptance until later.

Bonn's resumption of diplomatic relations with Algeria and the Sudan in December reflected its new approach to non-aligned countries that recognize East Germany. While still trying to discourage international recognition of Pankow, Bonn no longer severs relations with countries that do so.

Bonn anticipates that the next Arab League meeting on 11 March may approve resumption of Arab-West German relations and that, if so, Bonn's diplomats may be on post by April. Following a period of gradual expansion of cultural and economic relations, Bonn hopes ultimately to share an integrated West European role in the Middle East, balancing the Soviet presence and promoting an Arab-Israeli detente.

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USSR: Georgy S. Pavlov, a long-time associate of General Secretary Brezhnev, arrived in the US on 30 January ostensibly to study new techniques in information handling systems.

A full member of the Central Committee, Pavlov has headed the Central Committee Administrative Affairs Department since 1965. His association with General Secretary Brezhnev is believed to date back to the mid-1930s, when they went to the same institute in Dneprodzerzhinsk.

Pavlov himself is responsible for "housekeeping" services for Soviet and visiting VIPs. His department provides logistical support for the activities of the party apparatus and is probably faced with the problem of the "information explosion." It would be his responsibility to select and procure equipment to meet the problem although he would not personally utilize such equipment. Thus far, he has expressed an interest in the use of computers to handle party membership records.

Traveling as a guest of the Soviet ambassador, Pavlov has already visited the National Bureau of Standards and the Bureau of the Census, and plans to visit other government and private organizations, including NASA, MIT, and Rand Corporation, to learn how they use computers to handle large amounts of data.

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GUINEA: President Toure has ordered the nationalization of foreign oil operations in Guinea as part of his drive to limit Western influence.

Five Western oil companies were told this week that the nationalization is all-inclusive and covers distribution, storage facilities, and transportation equipment. Guinea produces no oil and the total foreign investment involved is small. Two of the five companies are American and their total stake, about \$3 to 4 million, includes the major storage facilities plus potentially profitable contracts to supply oil products to Guinea's expanding bauxite industry. Compensation reportedly will be partial, stretched over a five-year period, and in non-convertible Guinea francs.

Guinea probably will require some outside help to run the petroleum industry, although replacement of foreign workers by Guineans is well advanced. One Western oil official speculates that Algeria might provide some help, but there is no evidence to support this. A major consideration for Toure will be to ensure an uninterrupted flow of oil products to Fria, a Western-owned and run alumina-producing complex and Guinea's major foreign exchange earner.

Westerners are especially regarded with suspicion in Guinea these days, although a general mistrust extends to other foreigners as well. Fria and the other Western-run bauxite project at Boke have so far escaped any major government action designed to limit Western control. Toure is ideologically opposed to exploitation of African resources by foreign capitalists, but regards both as the basis for Guinea's future economic development and is unlikely to jeopardize their production at this time.

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BANGLADESH: A tense situation persists in the Mirpur area near Dacca, where as many as 250,000 Biharis are concentrated. An armed force, comprised of persons who formerly served the West Pakistani regime in a paramilitary capacity--and possibly including some Pakistani regular soldiers who never surrendered--reportedly is dug in at Mirpur and is determined to resist capture. The Dacca press claims this force is holding some Bengali intellectuals as hostages, and pressure for government action is building up. Government troops, reportedly aided by Mukti Bahini guerrilla irregulars, are moving to pacify the area and further clashes may occur.

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KUWAIT: Two recent incidents at Kuwait Oil Company installations, the first of which has been confirmed as sabotage, are making government and company officials apprehensive, although no connection between the events has been established. The first incident took place on 27 January when several pipelines to a local depot were damaged by explosives. On 1 February, a fire of unknown origin broke out atop an oil storage tank.

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[REDACTED] There has been a lot of rhetoric in the Kuwaiti press in recent weeks about the need to use oil as a political weapon against the US, and these incidents could have been attempts at harassment of the partially US-owned oil company.

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JAPAN: A large undersea natural gas field of undetermined commercial value, recently discovered by Japanese and American oil companies, is the first to be found on Japan's continental shelf. The find in the Sea of Japan off the west coast of the main Japanese island probably will spur hopes of discovering additional fields nearby or even further south in the East China Sea where South Korea, Taiwan, Communist China, and Japan have staked out conflicting claims. Until now, exploration throughout the area has turned up very little, despite years of survey work and drilling by a number of international oil companies.

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